

## The Controversial Christ Mark 2:18-22

- I. The Criticism Of Christ
  - A. The Moment of Their Criticism
  - B. The Meaning of their Criticism
- II. The Celebration Of Christ
  - A. The Picture of the Bridegroom
  - B. The Presence of the Bridegroom
  - C. The Prophecy of the Bridegroom
  - D. The Principal of the Bridegroom
- III. The Combining Of Christ
  - A. The Rending Result of Combining
  - B. The Ruining Result of Combining

## The Controversial Christ Mark 1:18-22

I once heard of a preacher which called himself "the most controversial preacher in America." I've listened to a number of his sermons, and enjoyed them for the most part, but sometimes some of the things he would say would just cause me to say "What?" Yes he is pretty controversial you either love him or hate him. Jesus as well was no stranger to controversy. All this chapter he is turning heads and causing people to either scratch their heads or smile and later grit their teeth.

The question is, does Jesus cause controversy?

I. The Criticism of Christ - One of my favorite preachers Ben Hedges said, That most people that come to him asking questions don't just bring a question, but bring a questioning.

A. The Moment of their Criticism - All the hub-bub at Matthew's house began to draw a crowd. The puzzled onlookers began to question Christ due to this feast. v5 18, The reason of question, although only 1 prescribed fast

before day of atonement, Pharisees took it upon themselves to constitute 2 days of weekly fast. This was so widely accepted that these other disciples wondered why wasn't Jesus fasting? Here we are on this ~~first~~ day and this man who

claims to be the prophet of God even God himself and he is just parading it up. Any other day of the week (apart from Sabbath) this would have been a non issue.

### B. The Meaning of their Criticism -

We have 2 groups asking this question Pharisees & John Baptis disciples. The Pharisees would fast on Mon-Thur. These were market days. Before the eyes of men would seem more holy or more pious than others. Luke 18:13. They would whiten their faces, mess up their hair, wear disheveled cloth to call attention to their love for God. They are asking "Why aren't you like us? The Discp of John, were probably like their leader, John was a recluse, he was a bit ascetic who did not avail himself to luxury. They may not have been as showy as Pharisees, yet they wonderfully

### II. The Celebration of Christ - From His life & teachings to his death & Resurrection. Jesus Christ stands in stark contrast to the rest of the World Jesus answers their questioning

#### A. The Picture of the Bridegroom -

He uses the illustration of a marriage, Vs 19. A wedding is and was a great cause for celebration. The happy couple would not leave town on honeymoon but would spend a couple of weeks of fasting & celebrating. Their closest friends invited to stay with them (children of bridegroom). Happiest moment of Hardly

1. ...questionings. They already know the answer, but they are trying to interrogate you then pin you down on a matter. That seems to be what's going on here.

2. Luke 18:12 I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.

5. Romans 5:14. Therefore, my brethren, as ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ, that ye should be made to live after the spirit who is raised from the dead, that we should bring you fruit unto God.

3. ...pave up our lessings, spend each other in order to the world, that we may contribute to each other, and make this community known. In most societies, the man and woman publicly attend their communions which each year, "I do" salvation from the untaught masses who thus a person knowing about Christ or even having "seen" Jesus, toward Christ salvation comes with the same community feelings.

4. ...Jesus, answering their questioning uses a beautiful illustration. Immensely subtle into the love of this situation, when asked a question, Jesus uses, showing his mighty spiritual power and blosphemous and ours, they think of His glorious power in heaven.

He ~~was~~ only pointing out this occasion of passing money as proper, as a future time, but their loyalty, cessation from the normal observances of attendance on the bridegroom are relieved of all religious observances which would lessen their joy." Guests exempt from fasting.

1. John 3:29 He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

2. Romans 7:4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

3. ...have strong feelings about each other. In order to be married, they must commit themselves to each other and make this commitment known. In most societies, the man and woman publicly affirm this commitment when each says, "I do!" Salvation from sin involves much more than a person knowing about Christ, or even having "good feelings" toward Christ. Salvation comes when the sinner commits himself or herself to Jesus Christ and says, "I do!" Then the believer immediately enters into the joys of this spiritual marriage relationship: bearing His name; sharing His wealth and power; enjoying His love and protection; and one day living in His glorious home in heaven.

He was only pointing out that occasional fasting would be proper at a future time, but that joyful celebration should be the normal experience of believers. " bisz dñi w grilus pñmddha e yllauz6 swr grñdF: ioddta. 2

4 ...not old in point of time as years old, but it means old in point of use

B. The Presence of the Bridegroom-1514  
John the Baptist already announced the presence of the Bridegroom (Jn 3: 29). God and His people were pictured as a married couple in the OT.

Jesus is announcing that he is the bridegroom. He is now inviting all who will come to sit at the table and feast!

C. The Prophecy of the Bridegroom 1500  
Jesus tempers this excitement and celebration with a haunting prophecy: That of his own death. The revelry and joy of his presence did not deter him from his appointed task. The word "taken" implies by force. Oh Our selfless bridegroom, giving himself to

D. The Principal of the Bridegroom  
But what is being taught? He is teaching that the characteristic of Christianity is not sorrow but joy, not fast or famine but that of a feast! Rom 7:4 Salvation much like marriage. Warren W. Explains people are not ③ married because they know each other or have stran-

III. The Combining of Christ- This departure from traditional teaching must have been quite a shock, standing in stark contrast to their orthodoxy. Jesus wonderfully illustrates

A. The Rending Result of Combining 1501  
New cloth referring to a cloth that has never been shrunk. The word old indicates... Some of these men listening may be entertained the idea

of adding this teaching to their own religious tradition. Some sort of compromise. But Jesus likens it to this patch that sure as the world is going to shrink will meet and tear the garment. Jesus Christ is not an add on. This is a problem in much of Asian culture where that will give mental ascent to Christ but want to add him to their indigenous gods. The claims of Christ call for a whole new garment, a new B. The Ruining Result of Combining - 1500 Jesus further emphasises the point by giving another illustration. Bottles here refers to animal skins, which normally are flexible but when old harder and can break. During formulation of winegar is produced by new wine that would cause the old skins to break. Some want to take the empty dead shell of works and just pour in a little Jesus but it just does not work. Salvation is not a patch job or mix job it is a whole new you. Christ fulfilled the law not destroyed it. Warner Wershe

#### IV. Closing

1. A new covenant in His blood, where the law of God is written upon the heart of flesh instead of stone and the enabling power of the Holy Spirit is given to fulfill the righteousness of the Law

2) The Christian life is not a mixing of the old and the new; rather, it is a fulfillment of the old in the new. There are two ways to destroy a thing: you can smash it, or you can permit it to fulfill itself. An acorn, for example, can be smashed with a hammer, or it can be planted and allowed to grow into an oak. In both instances, the destruction of the acorn is accomplished; but in the second instance, the acorn is destroyed by being fulfilled. Jesus fulfilled the prophecies, types, and demands of the Law of Moses. The Law was ended at Calvary when the perfect sacrifice was once offered for the sins of the world

How tragic when people hold on to dead religious tradition when they could lay hold of living spiritual truth. Why cherish the shadows when the reality has come?